

Serial No. 10/827,493

- 3 -

60619aka

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, on the grounds that "the current specification fails to disclose partitions including a gap and partitions provided to facilitate fluid transfer of the mixture." Applicant respectfully disagrees. Referring to Figure 6, partitions 164 and 166 do not run the entire length of the pad. Rather, gaps 168, 170 are provided to facilitate fluid transfer of the mixture. The specification was amended on May 17, 2005 to include this language.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Morgan et al. ('106). Anticipation may be established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under principles of inherency, each and every element of a claimed invention. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, 730 F.2d 1440, 1444, 221 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Moreover, anticipation requires the presence of all elements of a claimed invention as arranged in the claim, such that a disclosure "that 'almost' meets that standard does not 'anticipate'." Connell v. Sears, Roebuck Co., 722 F.2d 1542, 1548, 220 USPQ 193, 198 (Fed. Cir. 1983). In this case, Morgan simply does not teach or suggest a "pad" in general, nor does Morgan teach or suggest "one or more elongated partitions running lengthwise along the pad to establish fold line (sic), each partition including a gap to facilitate fluid transfer of the mixture." The Examiner's reference to Figures 2 and 3 of Morgan et al. only support Applicant's position, not that of the Examiner.

In the alternative, the Examiner claims that claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morgan et al., in view of Meckstroth ('757). Applicant has already made arguments of record with regard to this rejection, and the fact that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness. (See Appeal Brief dated December 22, 2005). All of those arguments are repeated herein by reference.

Serial No. 10/827,493

- 4 -

60619aka

Based upon the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Any questions or comments may be directed to Applicant's below-signed representative at the telephone/facsimile numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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